Examiner rejected exemplary claim 11 under 35 USC 102b/e as being anticipated by Sakurai.

Applicant traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

(a) Exemplary claim 11 defines a power supply arrangement for a gas discharge lamp:

"so constituted that, after lamp ignition, the current flowing through the lamp is an alternating current, substantially void of any DC component". (Emphasis added)

This feature is neither described nor suggested by Sakurai.

If Examiner were to remain of a different opinion, he is requested to show exactly where and/or how this feature is described or suggested in or by Sakurai.

With reference to Sakurai's Fig. 1, as an inherent consequence of diode 10 (which is connected directly across the lamp terminals) it is not possible for "the current flowing through the lamp ... [to be] ... an alternating current, substantially void of any DC component". In fact, the current through Sakurai's lamp will be nothing but unidirectional current pulses. Thus: (i) Sakurai's lamp current is not an alternating current; and (ii) his lamp current has a DC component of very substantial magnitude.

The fact that only unidirectional current flows through Sakurai's lamp is substantiated by the fact that only one of the cathodes is provided with cathode heating power.

Also, to help him understand the operation of Sakurai's circuit, Examiner's attention is directed to Sakurai's column 5, lines 20-38, particularly lines 24-28.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

To make it totally clear that alternating current flows through the lamp in his invention, Applicant has further amended independent claims 1, 7, 14 and 19.

Applicant objects to Examiner's refusal to consider claims 15-18 and 21, and points out that Examiner did not respond to Applicant's prior arguments in support of his traversal of Examiner's position to the effect that claims 15-18 and 21 represent a different class of inventions than do the other claims. Examiner's position is clearly improper; and Applicant will petition for a reversal of Examiner's position.